

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 24 of 1877.

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 16th June 1877.

IN writing of the late election of members for the Rajpore Municipality, the Editor of the *Bhārat Sangskārak* is surprised to find that all the Commissioners of the past year have been re-elected; and says that, though there are some among them who are able and truly patriotic, yet the rest are merely nominal and worthless. The ratepayers repeatedly made bitter complaints against them, and yet they have not been rejected. There is no want of competent men in the station. The rule, for the retirement of three-fourths of the old Commissioners and the appointment of new ones in their room at the end of every year, is indeed excellent, and ought therefore to be observed in this municipality.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
June 4th, 1877.

2. The same paper complains of the great inconvenience and trouble, experienced by passengers of the Mutlah Railway, owing to the want of a regular supply of drinking-water in the stations, especially in the hottest seasons of the year. The editor hopes that Ramgati Baboo, the able manager of the said railway, will direct his attention to redress this grievance.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

3. The same paper also, writing with great vehemence on some of the most serious consequences that have resulted from the native amateur theatrical performances, says that if the Government has made the Dramatic Performances' Act with a view to amend their faults, it should entrust the duties of their supervision to the hands of some able and competent native gentlemen; and should adopt measures in accordance with the reports made by them. To entrust such duties to the hands of ignorant police officers is to afford incentives to acts of unjust oppression.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

4. Adverting to the subject of the extension of the supply of Calcutta water to the suburbs, the *Banga Hitaishi*, of the 4th June, writes:—Owing to the absence of good tanks in most of the quarters in the suburbs, the people feel the greatest inconvenience regarding drinking-water, especially in the hot and rainy seasons. The inconvenience and the diseases, arising from the drinking of filthy and impure water, might be removed by the supply of water from Calcutta. It has been proposed to extend the supply only to the principal streets of the suburbs: these are in Kalighat, Tollygunge, Alipore, Ballygunge, and Muchikhola. But in such densely inhabited places as Bhowanipore and Kidderpore, it is necessary to extend the pipes, not only to the principal streets, but also to those adjacent. The writer gives the following list of the roads in Bhowanipore, where, he says, it is extremely necessary to lay down the water-pipes:—

BANGA HITAIISHI,
June 4th, 1877.

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| 1. Kansaripara Road. | 5. Chaulpati Road. |
| 2. Ulput Bagan Road. | 6. Kalighat Road. |
| 3. Pudmapukur Road. | 7. Strand Road. |
| 4. Chakrabaria Road. | |

He also adds that besides the Kidderpore and Muchikhola roads, it is necessary to lay down the pipes in such places as Munshigunge, Padmapukur, and Bhukailas; otherwise the conveniences accorded would be only partial.

SAHACHAR,
June 4th, 1877.

5. The *Sahachar*, of the 4th June, writes that almost all the inhabitants of India, and particularly educated Bengalees, frequently make observations on the administrative policy of Government. Though their loyalty towards the present Government is everywhere manifest, yet there is but one opinion, that the natives of this country are not allowed to enjoy their own natural rights, and that therefore this state of things ought to be changed. Even the common schoolboys are heard so to speak of it. This is a sign of progress; yet there is little probability of any advantages arising from untimely talk. It cannot be denied, that the present system of administration is not in accordance with the times; and has caused a feeling of dissatisfaction in the minds of the native public. The system by which the Government deals with them as with little children, and under which they have no voice with regard to legislative and revenue matters, is not desirable, though it might have been of some advantage at first. In the Delhi Durbar, when Lord Lytton said that, in consideration of the state of this country, some of the appointments in the public service must be reserved for Europeans only, the people of India almost unanimously replied that a condition, which necessitated the Government to adopt such a lamentable policy, ought to be altered. The natural rights of the people can never be recognized, except by disputations between them and their rulers, whose power is unlimited. Other nations gain wisdom from history or from the examples of their fellow men, but arbitrary rulers will never yield. Fortunately we live at a time when it is not necessary for us to attempt to subvert the government by internal dissensions. Our point may be gained by arguments, bringing forward our claims, and proving our fitness. In fact, such disputes have already been commenced between the Government and the people in general. The Government is unwilling to admit native officers into the army. It does not accept the views expressed by the natives with regard to revenue and legislative measures; and desires to keep in the hands of the Europeans all the higher administrative and judicial appointments. For this reason, obstacles have been placed in the way of natives passing the civil service examinations; and there is a firm resolution in our minds to remove the barriers that present themselves. The task is a very difficult one, but it must be carried out. In order to do this, we must first of all exercise patience, and rest on truth and justice. If self-interests, or the interests of a particular class only, were regarded, the end would be defeated. Untired diligence and indomitable energy are also needed. We should therefore ask whether we have these necessary qualities. Who are the men to be engaged in leading on, and whom are the public to regard as their representatives and guides? The British Indian Association has done, and is still doing, much; but it is necessary that some new members should be admitted into it, to help the old ones in this most important task.

SAHACHAR.

6. The same paper also writes:—The fact that the people of India have naturally a right to its wealth cannot be denied by anybody. We therefore must say that the English, into whose hands this wealth is now entrusted, have no right to make a useless expenditure of it. Yet we much regret to say they do so. Their duty, as treasurers of the Indian exchequer, is not discharged, if they only spend the money for the support of their own countrymen. When we think that a greater portion of the wealth of this

country, and of the happiness flowing from it, is enjoyed by the English, our hearts are ready to burst with grief. We have no power to oppose it, and we can only give silent vent to our sorrow. We have been hearing for a long time that some of the District Judgeships of Bengal were to be opened to the natives; but we cannot venture to repose any confidence in such anticipations; for we have been oftentimes disappointed, and are unwilling to subject ourselves to any more disappointments. It is not necessary for us to ask whether the natives of Bengal are competent for the discharge of the duties of Judges, or when they might be safely entrusted to their hands. We do not discover in them any hereditary defects which would ensure their failure in the satisfactory performance of these duties, notwithstanding the opinion of many Europeans that the appointment of natives of Bengal to District Judgeships would certainly prove a failure. It is not strange that men, whose only object is to secure their private interests, should be maddened at the thought of those interests passing into other hands. It is needless to say, that covenanted civil servants would consider themselves outraged, if superior appointments in the public service were conferred on natives. Owing to the late appointment of a talented native, called Gopal Rao Hari, to the District Judgeship of Tannah, in Bombay, the covenanted officers of that Presidency have become exceedingly angry. They have formed an association; and are endeavouring to preserve their future interests untouched. They have presented a memorial to the Marquis of Salisbury, with a view that no superior offices should be conferred on the natives; but His Excellency has rejected their application. Being Englishmen they will not easily give up their point. They will probably further memorialize the House of Parliament, for the purpose of preserving their own rights and interests, and depriving the helpless natives of India of their natural rights; and thereby also casting a stigma on the English name. But we have heard that the Parliament is a most virtuous body of men, and we believe that no wrongful act would emanate from them. Relying upon this belief, we are quite easy.

7. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 6th June, writes:—Owing to the faults of the English legislature and of some judicial officers, we sometimes observe that very heavy penalties are inflicted for most trivial offences, and trifling punishment is awarded for most serious crimes. As for this there seems to be no remedy, we wish that the law for the infliction of very heavy penalties should be abolished. But what are those referred to as very heavy penalties? The sentence of death is the heaviest of all punishment; and we pray a civilized Government to abolish it. A man has no just power to take the life of a fellow-man, to whom it has been given by the Creator. Moreover, a most serious objection against the penalty is, that by depriving one of life because he has been guilty of murder, he is put beyond the reach of doing some good acts which might otherwise be done by him.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
June 6th, 1877.

8. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 7th June, writes that Dr. Rajendra Lal Mitra, though a very learned man, is, by reason of his being very dull of hearing, incompetent satisfactorily to discharge his duties as a teacher and superintendent of the minors in the Court of Wards. It therefore behoves Government to provide him elsewhere with a befitting situation; this would be to the advantage both of the wards and to himself. The Doctor ought also to be promoted to a higher position.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKÁ,
June 7th, 1877.
Circulation about 2,217.

9. In an editorial under the heading, "The proposal for the admission of the natives of this country into the Military Department," the same paper remarks that notwithstanding the favourable proposition of the Secretary

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKÁ.

of State and the undoubted loyalty of the natives to the British Government, the hope of enjoying this privilege is not likely to be realized ; since it causes the interests of Europeans to clash with those of the natives.

BHARAT MIHIR,
June 7th, 1877.
Circulation about 650.

10. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 7th June, writes :—The duties of judicial officers are twofold. First, they have to preserve peace or to settle disputes, and secondly, to improve the country. But we regret to say that most of the officers in the mofussil neglect the latter duty. We know that some of them have to work very hard ; and we do not expect them, like preachers or reformers of society, to go into every village and sow good seeds. But we do expect that, when they can find leisure, or when opportunities occur, they should endeavour to promote the welfare of those who live within their respective jurisdictions.

BHARAT MIHIR.

11. With reference to the subject of the admission of natives into the higher offices of the State, the same paper writes much in the same strain as the *Sahachar* in paragraph 5 of this report.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
June 8th, 1877.
Circulation about 1,168.

12. The *Education Gazette*, of the 8th May, writes :—On the approval, by the Secretary of State, of the proceedings of the Viceroy and the Madras Government respectively, in the Fuller and Weld cases, it has been said that what the Government does, always receives the assent of His Lordship. This assertion is altogether groundless. The affectionate regard, which the State of Secretary has shown towards the natives of India, will not allow us to suppose that he would have approved of any injustice towards them ; and the opinions which His Lordship has expressed and recorded, in connection with these two cases, may encourage our hopes.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
June 8th, 1877.

13. The *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 8th June, writes that by passing the Public Works Cess Bill, in total disregard of the remonstrances of the various classes of natives, the Government has not done well. It has thereby laid a fatal stroke at the root of that confidence, which it took so much pains and labour to engender in the minds of the people, and on the basis of which it has been able to establish and exercise so much power throughout the length and breadth of Hindustan. While the natives remained in ignorance, and could not make their thoughts known to the Government, they considered that the English were really desirous to secure their welfare, and had been sent by God to promote their happiness. In short, they were regarded as gods. But now it is found that they are not so. They are common men ; for, like men, they are subject to avarice and to all other low appetites. They are well able to bring ruin on the weak. Has the Government not known the views of the people with regard to the new cess ? Or did the people remain indifferent to it ? For the sake of money, which is a most trifling thing, the Government turned a deaf ear to the various oppositions raised by the people against the new taxation.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI.

14. Alluding to the Simla Book Committee, the editor of the same paper expresses the strongest disapprobation of the appointment of Baboo Kristo Das Pal, on the ground that he is perfectly incompetent to give any opinion with regard to the selection of vernacular text-books.

GRAMBARTÁ
PRAKASHIKÁ,
June 9th, 1877.
Circulation about 202.

15. The *Grāmbartá Prakāshiká*, of the 9th June, writes that an impartial observation of the behaviour of natives towards the English, and of the English towards natives, would clearly show that there is no concord or amity between them. Some, who belong to the race of conquerors, are proud of their position, and look down upon the others as beings something below human. Yet there is no unfriendly feeling between the natives and those Europeans, who treat them as brothers and with due respect, towards

whom they in their turn do not fail to show respect and reverence. English professors in the Educational Department have made themselves beloved by their kind and honest behaviour. There exist also friendly feelings between the native and European merchants. Only the body of civilians, and English editors of newspapers who support them, have become generally disliked. Unless, therefore, these low-minded Englishmen be brought under control, there will be no real good done to the country and no good feelings established between them and the people.

16. With reference to the Land Registration Act VII of 1876, the *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 9th June, writes:—We much regret to learn, that the Board of Revenue has issued an order to the effect, that, every sharer of land is required to give separately an eight-anna court-fee stamp. The Government will thus have an income of fourteen or fifteen lakhs of rupees; but it will entail fearful trouble and misery upon many poor people. Is it reasonable or just to issue such an order because the Government requires money? By such measures the friendly relation between king and subject ceases, and very harsh feelings are generated.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
June 9th, 1877.
Circulation about 800.

17. Referring to the indigo-planters of Behar, the same paper says:—There is no doubt that if they be driven out of Behar, the people of that province will be as happy as the natives of Bengal; for they will then be able to derive large profits from the cultivation of the lands, from which the indigo-planters are at present gathering their riches. Until indigo-planters leave Behar the misery of the cultivators will never cease. They commit gross oppression upon the people. We hope that the Lieutenant-Governor will keep his vigilant eyes upon the acts of these oppressive men, and will find out means to free the people from their hands.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

18. The *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 9th June, regrets that, though the income of the Railway Company is so large, they do not provide a separate carriage in each train for native female passengers. He desires to direct the attention of the authorities to the matter.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
June 9th, 1877.
Circulation about 3,000.

19. Writing on the subject of the new loan, the *Soma Prokash*, of the 11th June, says:—The Governor-General has resolved to borrow two and a half crores of rupees for the public service. His Excellency is thus gradually adopting one by one all the means necessary for the convenience and construction of public works. Very recently the Provincial Cess Bill was introduced, and now a new loan is called for. We learn that great endeavours are also being made to curtail the expenditure of the Public Works Department. But such endeavours are always ineffectual, for when one ruler reduces expenses, his successor doubly increases it. In our opinion, the expenses incurred in the construction of public works ought to be met by loans; nobody can be dissatisfied with them, and the work will be done as required. If any should think it wrong for the Government to allow itself to be involved in debt, we may reply, first, that there is no harm in this, if the amount borrowed is spent in remunerative public works, which will not only meet the demand of interest, but will eventually liquidate the debt; and secondly, even where no remuneration is looked for, it is not unreasonable to meet the expenses by means of loans, for they have become an appendage to every civilized Government. The only harm we perceive in the increasing loans of our Government is that they might render some wealthy people indolent and inactive; who would cease to exert themselves if without labour they might receive interest on their money.

SOMA PROKASH,
June 11th, 1877.
Circulation about 700.

20. The *Urdu Guide* endeavours to solve the rather difficult question as to what action the Mussulmans should take in the present crisis. On the

URDU GUIDE,
June 9th, 1877.
Circulation about 400.

one hand, says the editor, we are the subjects of a wise, good, and beneficent Government, which has resolved to be neutral, and is on friendly relations with both the belligerent powers; and on the other, Turkey is the guardian of the two most sacred places of the Mussulmans, who are consequently bound to do everything in their power to assist and protect the Sultan. Under these circumstances, all that the Mahomedans in India can do is to send aid to the sick and wounded, also to the widows and orphans of those killed in the war. Moreover, even this should be done publicly and with the full cognizance of Government as heretofore. At the same time, it is a source of no little pleasure to be able to record that Government servants of position have already come forward to help in the matter. *

BEHAR BANDHU,
June 18th, 1877.
Circulation about 509.

21. The *Behar Bandhu* remarks that the Public Works Cess Act has now passed into law; and that the people of Behar should write and petition Government against introducing it into that province, as Behar needs neither roads nor water.

BEHAR BANDHU.

22. Referring to the remarks of the *Englishman*, that the Government have appointed a committee to inquire into the matter of Hindu religious trusts, this paper says that such a committee is specially needed; for many mahantas, and others like them, have wasted, and are yet wasting much landed property; many mandirs are despoiled and plundered; and it is therefore requisite that Government should direct its attention to this matter. At all events, if Act XX of 1863 be made applicable to all descriptions of estates, the advantage will be great.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 16th June 1877.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.

List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the week ending the 16th June 1877.

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Arunodaya Sambád"	Sibságar ...	Monthly ...	May 1877.
2	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh"	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	3rd May 1877.
3	"Bhárat Sangakarak"	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	4th June 1877.
4	"Sahachar"	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	4th ditto.
5	"Banga Hitaishí"	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	4th ditto.
6	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Beauleah, Rájsháhye ...	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
7	"Amrita Bázár Patriká"	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
8	"Bhárat Mihir"	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
9	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
10	"Moorsshedabad Patriká"	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
11	"Moorsshedabad Pratinidhi"	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
12	"Pratikár"	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
13	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
14	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
15	"Sulabha Samáchar"	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
16	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
17	"Sádháraní"	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
18	"Howrah Hitakarí"	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
19	"Soma Prakásh"	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
20	"Sambád Bháskar"	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
21	"SambádPurnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	Daily ...	11th to 14th June 1877.
22	"Samáchar Chandriká"	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	13th June 1877.
23	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu)	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	9th ditto.
24	"Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Bankipore, Patna ...	Ditto ...	13th ditto.
25	"Jám-Jahán-numá" (in Persian.)	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.